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Sweden's New Spy Arrest Imperils Khrushchey Visit

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, June 26 (AP) — Angry reaction to what officials called the worst spy scandal in Swedish history may force Soviet Premier Khrushchey to cancel his visit to this neutral nation a second time.

The government yesterday disclosed the arrest of a Swedish Air Force colonel charged with spying for the Soviet Union for 15 years. For five of those years he was Swedish Air Attache in Washington. It also ordered the expulsion of his two alleged contacts, the First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy and the Soviet Military Attache.

Col. Stig Erik Wennerstrom, decorated by both the United States and France, was arrested Friday. Police said he admitted selling military secrets of Sweden and other countries to the Kremlin.

Although the other countries were not identified, they presumably included the United States, which honored Wennerstrom with its Legion of Merit.

More Disclosures Due

A special communiqué suggested more disclosures would be forthcoming. They could further embarrass Mr. Khrushchey and force him to cancel his Scandinavian visit scheduled for next spring. Two years ago stormy political opposition made Mr. Khrushchey postpone a trip to Sweden.

The Swedish press unanimously called today for cancellation of the Khrushchey visit.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was reported investigating whether Col. Wennerstrom supplied the Russians with NATO secrets.

Well informed sources in Stockholm said NATO staffs in Paris and Washington had canceled all leaves to expedite the inquiry.

In Washington, the State Department said it received advance notice from the Swedish government of Col. Wennerstrom's arrest. Officials then refused to comment on the colonel's 1952-57 Washington assignment.

Col. Wennerstrom, now 57, also served twice at the Swedish Embassy in Moscow. He was acting as a special disarmament adviser to the Swedish Foreign Ministry when police picked him up.

Called Best Paid

The newspaper Dagens Nyheter, quoting informed sources, called Col. Wennerstrom one of the best paid Russian spies uncovered so far. It did not say how much he was paid.

In protesting violations of both Swedish and international law to the Soviet Embassy, Swedish Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson ordered the expulsion of Maj. Gen. Vitaly Nikolsky and Georgi Baranovsky as Col. Wennerstrom's contacts.

Gen. Nikolsky, 53, has been the Russian military attache here since 1960. Mr. Baranovsky, 42, became first secretary



GEORGI BARANOVSKY

—AP Wirephoto



MAJ. GEN.
VITALY NIKOLSKY

—AP Wirephoto

of the Soviet embassy on May 15, 1962.

An unconfirmed report said they left the country half an hour before Mr. Nilsson called the Soviet charge d'affaires to his office to deliver his protest. Socialist Premier Tage Erlander cut short an Italian vacation and returned to Stockholm to lead the government investigation. He called the case "unfortunate and regrettable" but declined more comment. The cabinet will take up the case Friday.

Threat to Government

The leader of the opposition Liberal Party, Bertil Ohlin, indicated he might ask parliament to vote no confidence in the government. Adoption of such a motion would force the government to resign, but the Socialists have a majority in parliament.

The government newspaper Stockholms-Tidningen said Col. Wennerstrom had been watched constantly for the last year. It said security agents took hundreds of feet of film of his meetings with two contacts and tapped the telephone at his luxurious 12-room villa.

Police said Col. Wennerstrom confessed to photographing secret documents with a miniature camera and handing the film to Soviet contacts.

Col. Wennerstrom was last in the headlines in 1957 when

16, ran away from Washington with a Senate page boy, Huw Williams, on an 18-day joy ride. Williams later was sentenced to six years in a Federal youth prison as an accessory to an armed robbery. Christine was rushed home to Sweden.

Holds High Awards

In addition to his American honors, Col. Wennerstrom also holds the flying awards of the French and Mexican air force and is a knight of two of Sweden's most distinguished orders—the Order of the Sword and the Order of Vasa.

He was commissioned as a navy officer in 1929, but switched to the air force in 1936 and rose to the rank of colonel in 1951.

After serving on the air force staff in Stockholm, he was sent to Moscow as assistant air attache. He was there when the Nazis invaded Russia in June, 1941. He returned soon after to Stockholm but was sent back to Moscow from 1949-52.

From Moscow he went to Washington.

Col. Wennerstrom retired from the air force with a pension in September, 1961, but remained in government as a military expert for the Foreign Office.



STIG WENNERSTROM

—AP Wirephoto